

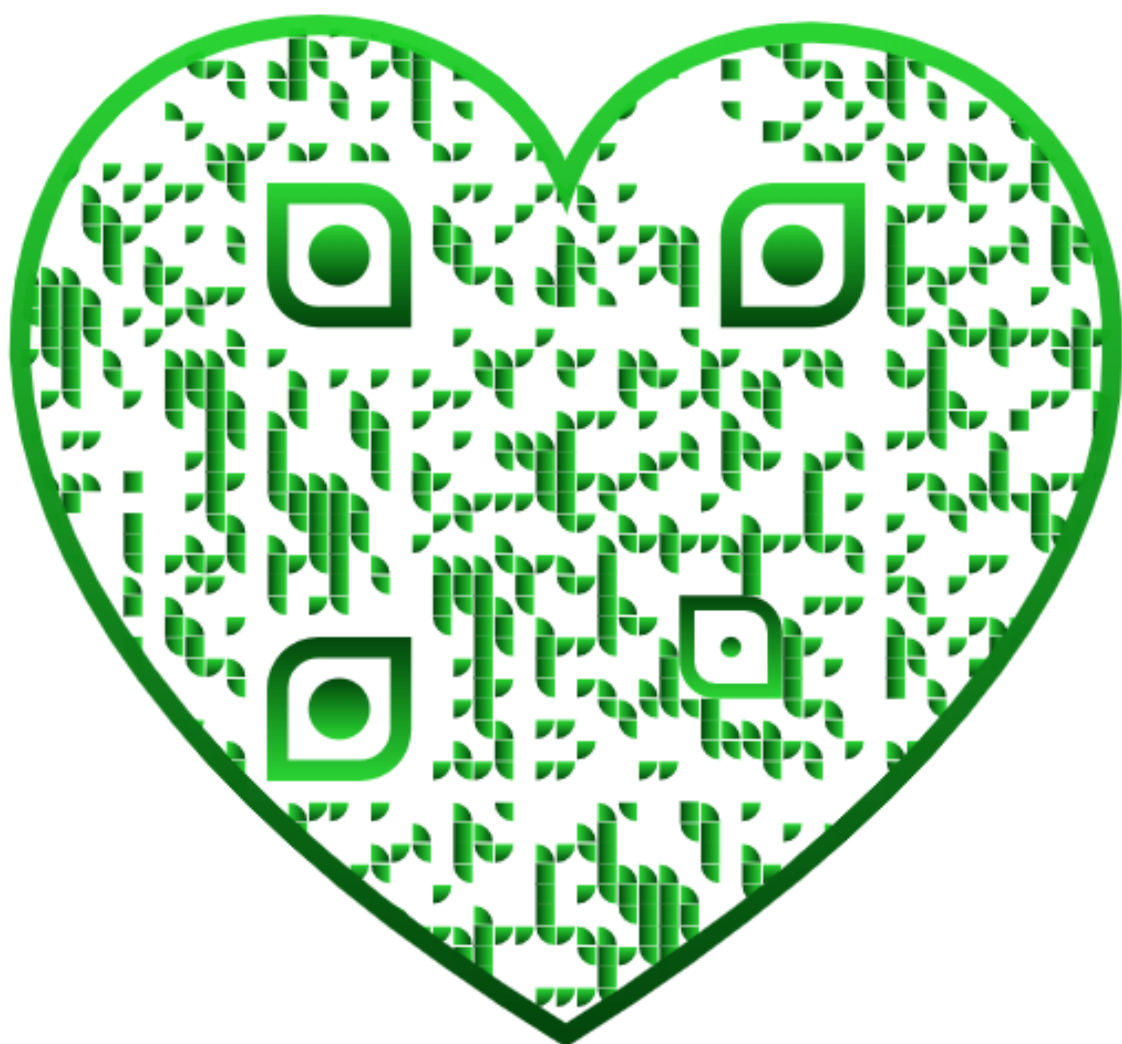
AUSTRALIAN
**HOUSE
& GARDEN**
Australian
Creatives at Home

*Style
secrets*
**FAVOURITE
FINDS**
*Shop the
looks*

**GORGEOUS
SPACES
INSPIRED
INTERIORS**

At home with...

Elizabeth Hewson, Robyn Holt, Anna Kennard, Chrissie Jeffery, Joss Knight,
Stuart Membery, Imogen Naylor, Deborah Thomas & Isabella Walker-Smith





STUDIOJOS

Interior Architecture | Furniture | Object | Design Studio



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AUSTRALIAN HOUSE & GARDEN

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We are fortunate to have an abundance of creative and lateral thinkers in Australia - not just those in the design industry but lots of imaginative personalities. At art launches and design events I am always pleased to see the inner creativity of people who have demanding corporate professions. They often say their jobs are a little dry, but pursuing those professions can allow the financial independence to decorate and build a creative sanctuary where your true style can be displayed. I love seeing the artworks and carefully curated pieces people choose to live with. Two of our subjects in this special issue are serious trailblazers in the world of publishing: Robyn Holt, who launched the *Vogue* brand in Russia and was once chief executive of Condé Nast Australia, and Deborah Thomas, former editor-in-chief of *The Australian Women's Weekly*. Being allowed a glimpse into their at-home life feels like such a privilege to me. These hardworking and talented women have travelled frequently, collected treasures and decorated their homes - both in the country coincidentally - with their finds, and they are beautifully curated of course. Back in the city, home cook, recipe writer, author and creator of @saturdaynightpasta and food columnist at *The Weekend Australian Magazine* Elizabeth Hewson is super comfortable with being a homebody and loves being ensconced in her freshly renovated new space with her young family where she cooks, writes, works and entertains. The interiors of her home - the kitchen, in particular, as a true hub of her life - reflect precisely who she is and what she does. Upcoming interior designer Joss Knight hasn't bought his home yet, but with his talent and drive, that will happen soon. In the meantime, he has created a sophisticated, elegant ambience in the townhouse he shares with two friends in inner Sydney. Imogen Naylor is the former interior design editor of *Belle*, and she knows a thing or two about putting together a beautiful room - her talents are usually showcased on shoots for large client extravaganzas, but here we get to see Imogen's life in her gorgeous home with her family. There is much to inspire on the following pages, but to me, the biggest message is that we all have our own style, and that is what we want to go home to at the end of the day, a place that we have tailored for ourselves with our collected finds and infused with memories. Whether you have professional help to create your dream space or fly solo, it needs to make you feel content so you can recharge and refresh - good design definitely makes us happier!

Tanya Buchanan

Tanya Buchanan, Editor-in-Chief



“The biggest message is that we all have our own style, and that is what we want to go home to at the end of the day.”

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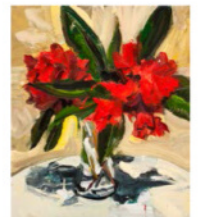
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1 A Minha Vida Portuguesa candle in Rose, \$250, Libertine Parfumerie. 2 Moments at Home hardcover book by Steve Cordony, \$70, Hardie Grant. 3 Louis Philippe scalloped mirror, \$2250, The Vault Sydney. 4 'Garden Vine' dinner plate in Green, \$69, Ralph Lauren Home. 5 September Rhododendrons artwork by Robert Malherbe, \$8000, Fox Jensen Gallery.

HIGHLAND HOME

A move to the country has brought style guru and former editor Robyn Holt joy, expanding her love of gardening and interiors.

STORY *Victoria Carey* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Alana Landsberry*

Calves are calling to their mothers in the distance as Robyn Holt walks up the driveway. “Come and see the garden first,” she insists, and I’m not about to say no to the woman who launched the *Vogue* brand in Russia and was once chief executive of Condé Nast Australia.

This invitation is hardly surprising from someone who confesses that *The Diggers Club* catalogue is one of her favourite things to read, usually found on top of a pile of books at the avid reader’s bedside. “I adore books,” she says. The former editor of *Vogue Living* clearly adores gardens and houses, too.

We meet on a clear sunny day. It’s perfect weather for gardening in a small town in the NSW Southern Highlands, where Robyn and her husband, Jim, bought their home in 2016 so they could finally start to fulfil their dream of living in the country.

“Just after we signed and exchanged contracts, my husband and I took our sleeping bags with us, lit the fire and had a takeaway chicken. We toasted our new house and knew we would be happy,” she says.

As I stand and admire the vegetables, I can understand Robyn and Jim’s confidence. I feel I could be standing in a Beatrix Potter storybook illustration. It doesn’t require too big a stretch of the imagination to envisage the Flopsy Bunnies asleep on a pile of grass clippings in a corner – remember Beatrix Potter’s quote, ‘It is said that the effect of eating too much lettuce is soporific’?

In this beautiful edible paradise, there’s something to delight the eye at every turn.

From a glasshouse found at Lydie du Bray’s antique store in nearby Braemar to house Robyn’s extensive pelargonium collection to the rustic stick fences crafted by Jim from fallen branches, it’s a perfect rural retreat. It’s also a place I’d imagine Robyn would find very hard to tear herself away from on the days she works for leading interior designer and fellow Southern Highlands resident Cameron Kimber.

“I do miss it when I’m in the city. The first thing I do when I arrive here at the end of the week is to come out into the garden to see what has happened while I’m away,” she says as we walk to the front door of her country home. “And, of course, I always love to fill the house with fresh flowers. It’s such a luxury.”

Flowers are not the only things that catch her eye. A basket filled with freshly picked lemons, so glossy it’s hard to believe they are real, sits on a side table in the sitting room, meanwhile a bunch of elegant silver-grey artichoke leaves with their jagged edges reaching towards the ceiling is housed on another table nearby. A solitary cabbage with its ruffled skirt of leaves is poised in a pot behind the sofa, flanked by piles of books that include a monograph of Cressida Campbell (a well-known Australian painter and printmaker, who often features vegetables in her work), and Jasper Conran’s *Country*. ►



Robyn Holt's eye for art is evident. *From top, artworks by Les Burcher, B. I. Mayorv, and English artist Henry King. Table and wicker chair, The Bronte Tram. Chair, Anna Spiro Design.*

H&G ROBYN HOLT

A gilt mirror from The Vault Sydney takes pride of place between bookcases made to Robyn's specifications. "They are filled with objects gathered over the years from all the countries we have lived in." Firescreen and wicker lampshade, Dirty Janes. Fireside chair in Sibyl Colefax & John Fowler 'Seaweed' fabric. Wicker lamp base, Pigott's Store, with shade from Vaughan Designs. Armchair in Laura & Kiran 'Coastal Stripe', Cameron Kimber. Antique lamp with Colefax and Fowler pleated shade. Cane chair, The Everything Store. Blinds by Peter Meyer.







“I ALWAYS LOVE TO FILL THE HOUSE WITH FRESH FLOWERS. IT’S SUCH A LUXURY.” *Robyn Holt*

“I am always plundering Jim’s vegetable garden. We are also lucky to have an orchard,” she explains. “There are often plenty of lemons and I’ve promised myself that I’m going to master marmalade soon.”

Her three grandchildren – Camilla, Matilda and Jack – are regular visitors with their mother, Hannah. Robyn has lovingly set up their bedrooms in a wing of the house leading from the entrance.

“We all adore this house, especially my grandchildren as it is a place to run and have fun – a place to learn about gardening and to understand trees, plants and growing vegetables,” she says.

Robyn and Jim, an actor who she met on the set of the Kennedy Miller miniseries *Bodyline* in 1984 when he was playing fast bowler Harold Larwood, have lived in many different places over the years.

“I have loved each and every house I have bought and lived in. Each one was at a different stage of our lives and seemed to suit us immediately. Buying and moving is stressful but exciting at the same time. It is all about possibilities,” she says.

This house, with its views out over the neighbouring paddocks, has certainly been about new beginnings, but the rich interior is layered with reminders of the past. “Every piece in the house has a story, which I guess is a result of a life where we have lived around the world. Often I look onto the bookcase shelves and think of when and where we bought something, which is a lovely memory,” she says.

A good bookshelf is somewhat of a Robyn Holt signature – and something she is often called upon to curate at Cameron Kimber Design. “Bookshelves immediately make you feel at home ... mixing books with objects is an art. I look at how each shelf will look, as well as what stories it will tell,” she says. “I always encourage people to put out things they have bought. Keeping things in cupboards seems sad.”

Spend an hour or two in this happy house filled with flowers, books and art, and you will understand exactly what Robyn Holt means. ►

Robyn Holt: cameronkimber.com. For bookshelf styling, contact Robyn at robynholt@mac.com.



LIVING Top Contemporary artwork by Michael Love. Pastoral scene artwork, Lydie du Bray Antiques. Portrait by unknown artist. Armchair in Redelman Fabrics, Cameron Kimber. Custom cushions in a Jane Shelton Fabrics floral print. Belgium sisal flooring, International Floorcoverings. **DINING Bottom** Artworks by Les Burcher, B. I. Mayorv, and English artist Henry King. Chair, Anna Spiro Design. Table and wicker chairs, The Bronte Tram. **KITCHEN Opposite** Joinery in Dulux Hog Bristle. Plates, Shapiro Auctioneers.



“EVERY PIECE IN THE HOUSE HAS A STORY... A RESULT OF
A LIFE WE HAVE LIVED AROUND THE WORLD.” *Robyn Holt*



DINING Artworks by Les Burcher, B. I. Mayorv, and Henry King. Chair, Anna Spiro Design. Table and chairs, The Bronte Tram.

SITTING ROOM *Opposite* Robyn bought a portrait of a woman by an unknown artist from interior designer Lisa Burdus. Bergère chairs covered in Madagascar straw. Curtains and chair in Chelsea Textiles fabric, Cameron Kimber. Blind in Paolo Moschino 'Twig Trellis'.





MAIN BEDROOM *Top left* Walls in GP & J Baker 'Coromandel' wallpaper. Pillow shams, Pigott's Store. Linen lampshade, Bloomingdales Lighting. Lamp base, Puddle Duck Lane Homewares. *Opposite* Antique Indian cupboard and botanic print, The Green House. Bed frame, La Maison. Armchair in GP & J Baker 'Coromandel' fabric. **BATHROOM** *Top right* Walls in Colefax and Fowler 'Esther' wallpaper. Vanity and antique chair painted Porter's Paints Grey Suede, PM White Building. Benchtop in Carrara marble, Granite & Marble Works. 'Neu England' tapware, Brodware. Prints Jim Holt. Carrara marble floor tiles, ColorTile. **GRANDDAUGHTERS' BEDROOM** *Bottom left* Bedheads and valances in Schumacher 'Shirala Paisley' in Spice. Curtains and blind in Nile & York 'Brindille' cotton. Three floral artworks by James Gordon. Illustration by Megan Hess. **GUEST ROOM** *Bottom right* Walls in Veere Greenery 'Berrydown' wallpaper in Sage. Artwork, Lydie du Bray Antiques. Sofa, Naturally Cane. Side table, The Bay Tree.



EXTERIOR Painted Dulux Grey Pebble double strength; windows Dulux Whisper White. **IN THE GARDEN** *Opposite, from top* Jim built the fence and gate for the 'picking garden', a green space filled with botanical treasures for Robyn to gather. "I love having fresh flowers in the house," says Robyn. "It's one of my favourite things about living in the country." Raised vegetable garden beds provide plenty of fresh produce. Robyn and Jim are hive hosts or 'bee guardians' for Muscle Honey.



"I AM ALWAYS PLUNDERING JIM'S VEGETABLE GARDEN." *Robyn Holt*



GREENHOUSE Robyn outside a greenhouse she found at Lydie du Bray Antiques – the perfect place to house her collection of pelargoniums.



CURATED NOSTALGIA

Vintage-style pieces create the lived-in warmth of Robyn's home.



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LIVING Pastoral scene **artwork**, Lydie du Bray Antiques. Portrait, unknown artist. A **cushion** in Martyn Lawrence Bullard 'Kabba Kabba' linen in Yellow is flanked by **cushions** finished in Jane Shelton fabric. Swing arm **lamp**, Bloomingdales **Lighting**. Convex mirror, The Country Trader. Botanic **prints**, Etsy. 1 Thomas O'Brien 'Mimi' **table lamp**, \$1690, The Montauk Lighting Co. 2 Rebecca Udall 'Eleanor' **platter** in Forest Green, \$279, Emporean. 3 Pineapple **print artwork** in a brown rattan frame, \$449, Emporean. 4 'Terrace' **rattan chair**, POA, Xavier Furniture. 5 19th century antique French Napoleon III **mirror**, \$5500, Dusty Luxe. 7 Linen **cushion cover** in Sage Ruffle Stripe, \$129, Luxe and Beau. 8 Hudson Furniture 'Marsella' **dresser**, \$1149, Freedom.

RECIPE FOR LIFE

Food writer and creative Elizabeth Hewson invites us into her beautiful home and shares two of her favourite, and totally delectable, recipes.

STORY Victoria Carey | STYLING Olga Lewis | PHOTOGRAPHY Kristina Šoljo

Many people have told me over the years that the kitchen is the heart of their home. For Elizabeth Hewson it truly is. It's the place she longs to be and the place where she is happiest. "I love to feed people," she tells me, tucking baby Remi under one arm while looking for her four-year-old son Louis' favourite toy car. And feed people she certainly does.

It started with a cookbook, *Moving Out... Eating In*, published when she was only 21, which was followed by *Saturday Night Pasta* in 2020 and now her column in *The Weekend Australian Magazine* inspires an audience of nearly 800,000 each week.

We are talking in the light-filled kitchen where the magic happens. Lizzie, which is what most people call her, carefully tests recipes here on her pride and joy, a Smeg 'Victoria' six burner – "I love this stove so much that I designed the entire kitchen around it".

The result is a beautiful but practical space. There's a cupboard for everything – the seasoned foodie has a strict 'no stuff on benchtops' rule – and a much-loved pot filler over the stove. It's a room that is in constant use and needed to be child-friendly while also serving as a photo studio, recipe kitchen, office and home for Lizzie and her husband, Tom, and their two children. Glance at her Instagram and you'll quickly see evidence of how well this multi-functional kitchen works. A reel in which Remi toddles unsteadily, looking longingly at the pasta ribbons dangling just above

her face as her mother makes pea, basil and spinach fettucine, says it all.

A banquet running down one wall has a very restaurant feel. (Hardly surprising as Lizzie's day job is Head of Creative at Fink – the Sydney-based hospitality group whose portfolio includes Bennelong, Firedoor, Gildas, Otto Brisbane, Otto Sydney and Quay.) Friends regularly take a seat on it, including architect Jaye O'Dwyer of Sann Studio who is responsible for helping bring Lizzie's renovation vision to life. "My wife, Nicola, and Liz went to school together and have been very close their whole lives," he says.

Built in 1908, the house is in a row of worker's cottages in Sydney's Inner West. "I love the history of this street," says Lizzie. "A belt maker lived in our house, a piano tuner lived next door and there was a butcher shop on the corner. Apparently, a lot of crime went on at the time and they used to run a gambling ring in the back lane."

These days, there is no sign of any illicit goings-on when we open the garden gate. Instead, the laneway leads to a playground. "It's so close that it is like an extension of the house, and we use it a lot. When Louis was a baby, I used to just put a rug out there and sit under a tree with him. We've had the kids' birthday parties out here and it's often used for get-togethers. One year we spent New Year's Eve out in the park with our neighbours and had a party. The park is a very important part of our local community." ►

DINING Lizzie and her family – husband Tom and children Louis and Remi – gather around the reclaimed elm 'Barcas' dining table from Living Styles. Joinery painted Porter's Paints Timberline. Wall lights, Lighting Collective. Print by Kara Rosenlund. Banquette, Land. Oak flooring, Nash Timbers.





After living in the house for five years, Lizzie and Tom toyed with the idea of moving to accommodate their young family but decided they couldn't leave their much-loved neighbourhood. They worked with Jaye to transform the cottage into a two-storey home with four bedrooms. There were several challenges to overcome. "The main one was light. The site is only 3.8-metres wide and the interior needed to have enough size to deal with a family of four, so pushing out to the side boundaries was critical on the ground floor," explains Jaye. "It meant that we only had the front and rear facades to put in windows that would allow enough light to penetrate into the building." The solution was custom skylights over the stairs and kitchen/dining area to ensure the space is flooded with light.

Heritage restrictions were another challenge. The facade had to remain unchanged, so the rear extension had to be built below the existing ridgeline. With a site sloping back to the rear, the solution was to split the floor level between the living area and kitchen to take full advantage of the change in levels. The result is a soaring 3.4-metre ceiling height in the kitchen that gives a wonderful sense of space.

Now a meal at Lizzie's is particularly satisfying for Jaye. "When we had a dinner party after we finished the build, Jaye sat at the table and looked around and said, 'How good is this!'" says Lizzie with a smile. I ask what home means to her. "I am what you would describe as a true homebody. Whether it's due to my anxiety or my laziness, I find great comfort in staying home so it means a lot to me," she explains.

"It provides me with a sense of belonging. It's a space where I have complete control over my environment and can express myself through my living space. Home represents routine and stability, serving as the anchor point from which I navigate my daily activities. It's filled with familiar sights, sounds and smells that offer a sense of comfort and wellbeing.

"And most importantly, home is my personal sanctuary. It's where I feel safe, secure and comfortable, allowing me to relax and be myself fully."

So, what's on the menu next Saturday night? Pasta, of course. What's her secret to a perfect ragu? "Time," she answers. "First you caramelise the meat, then leave it to blip away on the stove or in the oven to develop flavour. You can't rush it, which is why I love it. It forces you to slow down." And this little worker's cottage with the park out the back is the perfect place to do it. ►

Elizabeth Hewson: elizabethhewson.com.au. **Architect:** @sannstudio. **Builder:** twincorpdevelopments.com.au.

**“A PIANO TUNER LIVED NEXT DOOR AND THERE
WAS A BUTCHER SHOP ON THE CORNER.”** *Elizabeth Hewson*

DINING The distinctive striped banquette was custom-made by Elly Daley from Land. “I had this vision and Elly made it happen using an outdoor fabric in Sangria Stripe on Oatmeal in natural linen, so it is hard-wearing for the kids,” says Lizzie. *Open Country* photographic print by Kara Rosenlund. Wall lights in Copper, Lighting Collective. Joinery painted Porter’s Paints Timberline, Euro Form Kitchens. Bowls, Alex and Trahanas. Table, Living Styles.

KITCHEN Wall joinery in Porter's Paints Half Rubble and base joinery in Porter's Paints Timberline, Euro Form Kitchens. Benchtops in Calacatta Bianco, Cav'Art Designer Stone. 'Kasbah' splashback tiles, Surface Gallery. Hardware, RoyalDesign. 'Henley' farmhouse sink, ABI Interiors. Cooker, Smeg. Green striped bowl, Alex and Trahanas. Ceramic bowl by Firedoor restaurant ceramicist Malcolm Greenwood. *Opposite, bottom* Each piece of art on the kitchen wall has a story. *From top left* Ortiz Anchovies by Belinda Aucott. "Tom had this commissioned for my birthday one year. I love anchovies," says Lizzie. The Food For Everyone poster of Lizzie's *Spaghetti Puttanesca* with artwork by Libby Haines. "For each sale of a poster, Food For Everyone donates the equivalent of 10 meals to [food rescue organisation] SecondBite"; *Sardines* by Whitney Spicer: "This was a gift for my birthday from my good friend Lennox Hastie." *Bottom row* Allie Webb's *Spaghetti and Meatballs*: "A gift from my boss, Jeremy Courmadias, and my Fink family when I went on maternity leave to have my first baby." *A Gilda* by Whitney Spicer. *Little Lemon* by Anjana Rai was an anniversary present. *Tortellini* by Kim Bizo: "A gift from Fink when I left for my second baby." *Custard Slice* by Steve Salo: "Lennox got this piece commissioned for my birthday one year of my favourite thing ever – a custard slice."





“HOME IS MY PERSONAL SANCTUARY. IT’S WHERE I FEEL
SAFE AND COMFORTABLE.” *Elizabeth Hewson*

KITCHEN Walls painted Dulux Natural White. Wall joinery in Porter’s Paints Half Rubble and base joinery in Porter’s Paints Timberline, Euro Form Kitchens. Benchtops in Calacatta Bianco, Cav’Art Designer Stone. ‘Kasbah’ splashback tiles in Matt White, Surface Gallery. Handles and pulls, RoyalDesign. Sink, ABI Interiors. ‘Wave’ rattan pendant lights from English designer Matilda Goad & Co. “I saw them in a magazine and knew straightaway they would be perfect,” says Lizzie. Red bowl and cheese board, Alex and Trahanas.





ACQUA PAZZA-STYLE PASTA SAUCE

2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil,
extra to serve
4 spring onions, white and light
green parts chopped
3 garlic cloves, chopped
200g cherry tomatoes, halved
1 tablespoon tomato paste
½ cup dry Italian wine
1 cup water
2 tablespoons capers
20g green Sicilian olives (pitted
if available, or remove pits)
2 teaspoons fish sauce
400g dried spaghetti
500g white, flaky fish, such as
flathead, snapper or ling
Zest of 1 lemon
½ bunch parsley, roughly chopped
Dried chilli flakes to your liking

1 Heat deep frying pan over medium heat. Add oil along with spring onions and garlic, and cook for 1–2 minutes, being careful not to brown. Throw in tomatoes along with a generous pinch of salt. Cook for about 10 minutes, stirring occasionally, until jammy.

2 Add tomato paste and give everything a good stir. Cook for 1 minute. Add wine and cook for a few minutes until wine has been reduced by half. Add 1 cup of water along with capers, olives and fish sauce. Cook for a further 10 minutes or so.

3 Meanwhile, bring a large saucepan of water to a lively boil and season as salty as the sea. Add pasta and cook until al dente.

4 Flake fish into tomato sauce. Leave to cook for a few minutes until fish has cooked through. Drain pasta and add it to the sauce along with zest, parsley and chilli and toss. Drizzle with oil and serve.



MOZZARELLA IN CARROZZA

125g mozzarella ball
12 slices white bread, crusts removed
3 teaspoons tomato and basil pasta sauce
6 basil leaves
Zest of 1 lemon
2 eggs, whisked
1 cup panko breadcrumbs
Olive oil for frying
Salt flakes and lemon wedges, to serve

1 Slice mozzarella into 6 x ½ cm-thick slices. Lay out 6 slices of bread. Place a mozzarella slice in the centre of each slice of bread. Dollop each slice of mozzarella with ½ teaspoon of pasta sauce. Top with a basil leaf and a little lemon zest. Place remaining 6 slices of bread on top and press edges firmly to seal.

2 Place eggs into a wide shallow bowl and the breadcrumbs into another. Working with one sandwich at a time, dip into egg to coat, then into breadcrumbs. Place on baking paper-lined trays as you go.

3 Place a large frying pan over medium heat. Add oil to just under ½ cm high. To check if the oil is hot enough, drop in a few breadcrumbs; they should bubble. When oil is ready, place 1–2 sandwiches into the oil. Fry for 2–3 minutes on each side or until golden brown. Drain on paper towel. Repeat with remaining sandwiches. Season with salt flakes and cut diagonally. Serve with lemon wedges. ►





Clockwise from top left **MAIN BEDROOM** Scalloped bedside table from Etsy fixed to the wall to save space. *Rolling Hills* artwork by Rachel Stevens was part of a collaboration with Sydney stylist Jono Fleming. Curtains, Mansours. 'Industrial' wall light in Dark Brass, Lighting Collective. Bedhead, Pillow Talk. Carafe, Few and Far. Square cushion, Walter G. Bed linen, In Bed. **BATHROOM** Joinery painted Dulux Sicily Sea. Vanity benchtop in Calacatta Bianco, Cav'Art Designer Stone. Basin and tapware, ABI Interiors. 'Oxford' wall tiles in Ivory, Surface Gallery. **EXTERIOR** Front door painted Dulux Simpson Surprise. **LAUNDRY** An artwork by Lucy Reiser sits on the Calacatta Bianco benchtop from Cav'Art Designer Stone. 'Kasbah' wall tiles in Matt White, Surface Gallery. Sanderson Home 'The Allotment' wallpaper in Fennel, Wallpaper Direct. Basket, IKEA. **LIVING Opposite** The living area steps down into the open-plan kitchen and dining. 'Sorrento' fabric modular sofa, Freedom. Vintage rattan floor lamp, Etsy. Cushions, all Walter G. White ceramics on benchtop, McMullin. Photographic print by Kara Rosenlund.

LOUIS' BEDROOM "I made the piece above the cars [with] felt fruit and vegetables," she says. Circus tent light, Etsy. Blinds, Mansours. Car racks, IKEA. Wall shelf, Mocka. Spiderman bed sheets, Adairs.



CULINARY GENIUS

Turn up the comfort factor in the kitchen with classics inspired by Elizabeth.

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SHELFIE A collection of prized cookbooks sit alongside Lizzie's collection of trusted pots. 1 'Dirty Martini' **pasta sauce** (500g), \$12.90, Saturday Night Pasta. 2 'Corda' **cheese board**, \$295, Alex and Trahanas. 3 'Ruffle' slipcover **chair**, \$960, Land. 4 'Henley' double fluted **farmhouse sink**, \$734.90, ABI Interiors. 5 Joseph cold-pressed extra virgin **olive oil** 2024 (750ml), \$51.10, Primo Estate. 6 Ruffled **cushion** in Sangria, \$349, Land. 7 Dried pipette **pasta**, \$9.90, Saturday Night Pasta, in a 'Parasol' ceramic **pasta bowl**, \$89, Alex and Trahanas. 8 '50s Retro Style' **stand mixer** in Cream, \$799, Smeg.

URBAN HAVEN

With some smart finessing, interior designer Joss Knight elevates a plain townhouse into something truly special.

STORY *Chris Pearson* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Nicholas Caldwell*

Design dynamo Joss Knight of Studiojos rents this light-soaked townhouse in Sydney's Inner West, but even as a rental, the abode still offers generous scope for him to channel his creative energies and showcase his classic style. Joss moved into the property two years ago with his good friends, Jake and James. "We were looking for a brand new property that could comfortably accommodate three young professionals," he says. "Proximity to work was also a key factor, and, being just minutes from the Sydney CBD, made it an ideal choice."

Comprising three levels, the four-bedroom terrace offered plenty to love, with two bedrooms and a two-car garage on the ground level. The living areas occupy the first floor, while two more bedrooms, both with ensuites, occupy the top. But the pièce de résistance that sealed the deal was a light-filled, five-by-four-metre courtyard in the centre, creating a void that soars up from the ground level and forms the lungs of the building.

And, with white walls and oak flooring and joinery, the house would provide the perfect backdrop for Joss's calming aesthetic of classic sandy hues and fresh whites. Loads of storage, including plenty of shelving for Joss's exhaustive collection of design books, was another tick.

But it wasn't perfect. "While the terrace was modern and brand new, with its plain walls, we felt it could use some decorating help," says Joss. For his brief to himself, European understated refinement and natural tones

featured strongly - Belgian architect Vincent Van Duysen and French architect Joseph Dirand are his design muses.

First up, the walls. "We added artworks to give the space more personality and warmth," he says, with most works by Joss's artist of the moment, Indivi Sutton, in the living, study and dining area. "The texture and the subtle play of light on the raw linen is inviting and dynamic, making the art feel alive and ever-changing, depending on the time of day," he says. And, to avoid damaging the walls, he used removable hooks and adhesive strips to hang artwork. "They also let me switch things up easily, if I want a refresh."

The lighting, in particular in the living area with its many downlights, felt too harsh, so he introduced floor and table lamps to create a cosier ambience, including two pieces from his own collection, the 'Stasis' floor lamp and 'Spraucy' table lamp, which celebrate the sphere and Joss's love of curves.

To further enhance the space, he incorporated soft, textural furniture with a muted, natural palette that aligns with the aesthetic of his design studio, such as a 'Clay' armchair from The Lazy Stylist and the oak 'Altura' dining table from Casa Blanco - think organic forms with luscious curves, in luxe boucles, linens and velvets. "This made the space feel more personalised and connected to my creative work," he says. "Our signature palette combines soft hues like beige, cream, brown and white to create a tranquil, liveable space." He also layered in rugs, cushions and ►

JOSS KNIGHT H&G

LIVING Designer Joss Knight perches on a 'Clay' armchair, beside 'Tyde' coffee and side tables, all The Lazy Stylist. Vessel on top shelf, H&M Home. Vintage vessels. Candle, Loewe. Custom rug, Whitecliffe Imports. Architecture by WMK Architecture.



H&G JOSS KNIGHT





KITCHEN Benchtop and splashback in Dogal Dark Grey marble. Miele cooktop, Winnings. Vessels, Mud, Dinosaur Designs and vintage. Stand mixer, KitchenAid. Foliage, September Studio. **LIVING** *Opposite,* top 'Stasis' floor lamp, Studiojos. Armchair and side table, both The Lazy Stylist. Vase, McMullin. Rug, Whitecliffe Imports. **DINING** Table, Casa Blanco. Chairs, MCM House. Artwork by Indivi Sutton.

throws to add warmth and another dimension, "all of which can be taken with me when I move". Which he will do in the near future when he fulfils his ambition of buying his own property.

He concedes renting can clip his designer wings. "But I've found creative ways to make the space feel like home without making permanent changes."

And the living space, the most obvious expression of his design ethos, holds a special place for him. "Cosy and calm, it makes the perfect retreat after a long, busy day. It's where my housemates and I come together to unwind, chat for hours about everything and anything, and share plenty of laughs," he says. "The combination of a relaxed atmosphere and good company makes it the ideal spot to be." ▶

Studiojos: studiojos.com.au.

“MY FAVOURITE TONAL COMBINATION IS
BEIGE AND BROWNS, WHICH HOLDS A DEEP
EMOTIONAL SIGNIFICANCE. BEIGE PROVIDES
A CALM BACKDROP... EARTHY BROWNS
BRING DEPTH TO THE SPACE.”

Joss Knight



BEDROOM 'Delara' woven bedhead, Worn.
'Cube' side table, Casa Blanco. 'Spraucy' table
lamp, Studiojos. Bed linen, In Bed.

SERENE MINIMALISM

Organic shapes and contemporary pieces feature in Joss's favourite things.

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STUDY 'Simon' armchair, The Lazy Stylist. 'Waves' dining table, Casa Blanco. **Artworks** by Indivi Sutton. Table lamp, a vintage find.
 1 D.S. & Durga 'I Don't Know What' fragrance enhancer (50ml), \$291, Mecca. 2 Mixed taper candle set, \$30/eight, In The Roundhouse.
 3 'Hive' vase in Milk, \$320/large, Mud. 4 Men's 'Super-Star' sneakers with silver heel tab and lettering, \$565, Golden Goose.
 5 Round carrara candleholder, \$80, Offcut. 6 'Shoal' catch-all dish, \$149, Ellison Studios.
 7 'Olive' bottle, \$139, Maison Balzac. 8 'Dora' mirror, \$850, Rachel Donath.

WANDERLUST AT HOME

Having lived around the globe, creative Anna Kennard puts down roots with her family in a welcoming home, referencing her love of travel.

STORY *Judy Pascoe* | STYLING *Sophie Wilson* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Kristina Šoljo*

An 18-month sabbatical on Lake Annecy in Haute-Savoie, France, has provided endless inspiration for Anna Kennard, both in the design of her home and in the creation of Sydney vintage and antiques business, Dusty Luxe.

Born in England and educated in Scotland, Anna spent years travelling to her parents' workplaces in Borneo, Libya, Yemen and Abu Dhabi as an "expat kid" before settling in Australia at the age of 23. Her upbringing certainly broadened her perspective, but the time spent in France was the most formative. While her three children attended the local school, Anna and husband Cameron spent their days learning French, exploring the lake and nearby mountains and, on weekends, fossicking in the local brocantes, vide-greniers and estate sales, developing a passion for French antiques.

Returning to Sydney, Anna co-founded Dusty Luxe with her sister-in-law and fellow Francophile, Jackie, offering a carefully curated selection of French vintage and antique furniture and objects, including armoires, parquet tables, rush-seated chairs, confit pots, gilt mirrors and oil paintings. "These pieces complement any interior design style and provide warmth and personality, as well as a timeless aesthetic," she says.

Bursting with ideas for the perfect family home, Anna then turned her attention to the Sydney house they had purchased some years before their French sojourn. "The experience in Europe shaped us in more ways than we

ever could have expected and naturally impacted the design choices for our home also," she says.

While the couple loved the arts and crafts features of the Lower North Shore house, it had some serious water issues and the only solution was to demolish the original structure, excavate to address the problems and rebuild a more functional and contemporary home.

Robert Weir of Weir Phillips Architects conceived a four-level house with five bedrooms, expansive living and entertaining spaces, a pool, tennis court and basement parking. Despite being a new build the home exudes an established charm, positioned in a peaceful location, close to the beach, bush walking tracks and the local shopping village. "It's one of my favourite spots where the bush meets the sea and the sea meets the city. I'm very grateful to be in such a beautiful part of the world," says Anna.

There is a distinct Mediterranean ambience to the interiors by Justine Hugh-Jones and Katrina Mackintosh of boutique residential practice Hugh-Jones Mackintosh. The pair sourced exquisite furniture and finishes locally and internationally to bring the aesthetic to life. "This included handmade light fittings, bespoke furniture and rugs from Morocco," says Anna. "Their expertise extended to designing stunning joinery and the captivating fireplace, a focal point of the living room."

Inspired by French architecture, Anna's own design ethos favoured organic curves and natural textures, ►

LIVING Anna Kennard, co-founder and director of Dusty Luxe, a vintage and antique furniture and homewares store, at home. Walls painted Dulux White Duck Quarter. Gubi 'Pacha' lounge chairs, Criteria. Jetmaster fireplace with surround and bench in Aren Bianco stone tiles, Onsite Supply+Design. Antique French confit pot and vintage artwork, Dusty Luxe. Rug, Kulchi.



along with rendered interior walls, tumbled terracotta floor tiles and graceful arches.

One of the standout features is the flooring in the open-plan living, dining and kitchen area that utilises salvaged roof tiles in a beautiful, weathered terracotta from old dwellings in Serbia. “We hand-picked those with the warmest tones and repurposed them into floor tiles. It was a bit of a risk but it has turned out to be one of the highlights of our home,” she says.

The tiles are a prime example of Anna’s love for integrating historic pieces into modern settings to create “a home that is inviting, sustainable and filled with stories of adventures and passions”. She adds, “It just makes sense to give items a second life - which is what Dusty Luxe is about too - unique, timeless pieces with a story.”

This seemingly effortless overlay of heritage and contemporary, rustic and sophisticated, is evident

throughout Anna’s home. Take the art studio - one of her favourite spaces - where a New York-loft aesthetic prevails, a terracotta-tiled workbench and an antique French copper cauldron functioning as a stylish sink create the perfect mood for her forays into painting. This “haven for creativity” is also blessed with inspiring city views through tall arched windows, adding to its appeal.

However, quiet times are infrequent as Anna is an enthusiastic entertainer. “The tennis court is often the focus and we [also] use it for pickleball, basketball and other sports,” she says. The pizza oven is on high rotation for smoking meat for the barbecue as well as pizzas for a crowd, while the basement rumpus room is set up for table tennis tournaments and movie nights. “There’s something for everyone to enjoy,” says Anna. She also delights in hosting relaxed dinner parties and using her cherished antique etched French glasses for aperitifs. ►

**“HAVING TRAVELLED
EXTENSIVELY, WE’VE DRAWN
INSPIRATION FROM MANY
PLACES AND OUR HOME
IS A TESTAMENT TO THIS
ECLECTIC TAPESTRY OF
INFLUENCES.”** *Anna Kennard*





LIVING Chairs and sofa, all Criteria. Faina 'Soniah' coffee tables, Tigmi Trading. Rug, Kulchi. Confit pots, vintage ladder, vintage oil painting, pedestal table, green vintage pitchers/vases, all Dusty Luxe. Anita Mertzlin cushion, Ferris Wheel Gallery. Jetmaster fireplace with surround and bench in Aren Bianco stone tiles, Onsite Supply+Design. **KITCHEN** Joinery in TrueGrain 'Bouchon', Briggs Veneers. Benchtop in Montauk Black Slate, Bisanna. Splashback in Moroccan 'Casa' tiles, Onsite Supply+Design. Antique French Bentwood seat, French Biot pot, chopping board, copperware and cream confit pot, all Dusty Luxe. Artwork by Martial Cosyn, Ferris Wheel Gallery. Perrin & Rowe tap, The English Tapware Company. 'Dita' bar stools, Grazia & Co. Apparatus 'Twig 5' pendant light, Criteria. Wolf oven, Winnings. 'Malina' floor tiles, GatherCo. **HALLWAY** Copper, the family's Red Setter. Abaca rug, International Floorcoverings. Vintage console, Dusty Luxe. Artwork by Martial Cosyn, Ferris Wheel Gallery. Rug, Halcyon Lake.



"I love integrating elements from Dusty Luxe into our design narrative to add a personalised touch, enriching the aesthetic and creating a synergy between form and function and demonstrating how mixing old with new can be achieved successfully," she adds.

Anna's passion for vintage pieces is boundless. She says every item reminds her of the French regions she loves so much. Annual trips to France with Jackie and their families are a continuing opportunity to unearth finds for their Dusty Luxe shop in Artarmon, a space which is a constantly evolving treasure trove attracting homeowners as well as interior designers and stylists.

Anna is now working on a country family property in Berry, NSW, and is looking forward to showcasing more finds in a rural setting.

"I think a home should be as distinctive and vibrant as the individuals who inhabit it," she remarks. "Having travelled extensively we've drawn inspiration from many places and our home is a testament to this eclectic tapestry of influences. We cherish its uniqueness as it reflects the essence of us and our adventures."

Dusty Luxe: dustyluxe.com.au. Hugh-Jones Mackintosh: hughjonesmackintosh.com. Weir Phillips Architects: weirphillips.com.au. Paul Bangay: paulbangay.com.



DINING 'Double Bell' table, The Wood Room. Moroso 'Mathilda' dining chairs, Mobilia. Antique French oak carver chairs, and bowl on table, Dusty Luxe. Apparatus 'Median 2' pendant light, Criteria. Floor in 'Malina' recycled light terracotta tiles, GatherCo. *Pears and Shadow* artwork by Esther Eckley, Michael Reid Murrurundi. *Bowl of Lemons* artwork by Laura White.



ENSUITE Walls painted Dulux Snowy Mountains Quarter. 'Sabbia' bath, Boffi. Perrin & Rowe tap, The English Tapware Company. Flooring in 'Jamila' terracotta tiles, GatherCo. Apparatus 'Talisman 1' wall light, Criteria. Shower doors in fluted glass designed by Hugh-Jones Mackintosh. Vintage French milking stool and cream confit pot, Dusty Luxe. **STAIRWELL** Commissioned artwork of Anna's three children at the beach by Sophie Gralton. **WALK-IN ROBE** Joinery painted Dulux Pale Green Tea. 'Libra' T-knobs, Noble Elements. &Tradition 'Little Petra' sheepskin chair, Cult. **MAIN BEDROOM** Opposite B&B Italia bed, Space. Bedhead upholstered in 'Turkish Maze' fabric in Saffron, Tigger Hall Design. Bed linen, Cultiver. Ringvide 'Weave' bedside table, and Apparatus 'Cylinder' swing arm lamps, both Criteria. Curtains in Kohro 'Lucilla' linen in Marmo, Simple Studio. Cream confit pot on bedside table, Dusty Luxe.

“I THINK A HOME SHOULD BE
AS DISTINCTIVE AND VIBRANT
AS THE INDIVIDUALS WHO
INHABIT IT.” *Anna Kennard*





Clockwise from top left **CHILDREN'S BATHROOM** Joinery in American oak veneer painted Dulux Bread Crumb. Wall light, Dunlin. Basin, Nood Co. Benchtop and splashback in Momentii terrazzo, and Popham Design 'Plus' floor tiles, all Onsite Supply+Design. Tapware, The English Tapware Company. Antique terracotta vase, Dusty Luxe. **CHILD'S BEDROOM** Lower wall and joinery painted Dulux Pattipan. Blinds, Simple Studio. 'Delara' bedhead, Worn. 'Artie' open bedside table, GlobeWest. 'Okina' table lamp, POTT. Rug, Halcyon Lake. Carpet, Bremworth. **LAUNDRY** Above and opposite Joinery painted Dulux Pozieres. Door handles, Noble Elements. Tapware and 'Acquello' sink, The English Tapware Company. Vintage timber 'Leroux' box, French cream confit pot, both Dusty Luxe. Baskets, Pottery Barn. Herringbone 'Jamila' floor tiles, GatherCo. **CHILD'S BEDROOM** Joinery painted Dulux Lamb's Ears. Blinds, Simple Studio.

“I LOVE... CREATING A SYNERGY BETWEEN
FORM AND FUNCTION.” *Anna Kennard*







TENNIS COURT There is a strong connection between the house and outdoor spaces. Landscaping by Paul Bangay. **POOL** Tiles, Barefoot Living. Custom bench by Hugh-Jones Mackintosh upholstered in Dedar 'Strange Loves' outdoor fabric in Carrot Stick and Perennials 'Jake Stripe', South Pacific Fabrics. **OUTDOOR DINING** Roda 'Brick' extendable table, sourced in Italy. Chairs, Fermob. Wolf barbecue, Winnings. Studio Expormim 'Oh' suspension lights, Ke-zu. Confit pot and ceramics, Dusty Luxe. **EXTERIOR Opposite** The black steel doors emphasise the Mediterranean style of the home. Doors from Skyrange painted Dulux 'Ferrodor' in Enoch Grey. Pots, Parterre and Dusty Luxe.



EXTERIOR The house is newly built in a Mediterranean style with bougainvillea framing the archways. Landscaping by Paul Bangay. Terracotta paving, Aeria Country Floors. Terracotta pots, Parterre. Antique Biot pots, Parterre and Dusty Luxe.

GLOBAL AESTHETIC

Create a home with a certain 'je ne sais quoi' with a rich tapestry of wares.

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BATHROOM Textured, terracotta-toned walls give this room a warm glow. Apparatus 'Trapeze 4' surface-mount wall light, Criteria. Vintage artwork, Dusty Luxe. 1 Vintage French jug and bowl, \$580, 2 Antique French cream confit pot, \$450, 3 Large vintage French hand-painted pot, \$320, 4 Vintage French kitchen sideboard, \$3750, 5 Antique early 20th-century French oval bow-tied ribbon mirror, \$750/two, 6 Vintage French hand-painted jug, \$280/small, all Dusty Luxe. 7 'Linda' mini dress, \$545, Alemais. 8 18th-century antique French alpine folk trunk, \$4750, Dusty Luxe.

ISLAND PARADISE

Renowned designer Stuart Membery works his magic on a villa in Bali and opens his doors to guests from around the world.

STORY *Victoria Carey* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Jonny Valiant*

Stuart Membery has spent a lot of his life living out of a suitcase, but he's not complaining. Far from it. "A suitcase forces you to choose and makes you edit down to the things you love the most. And that's what the job of a designer is: to edit. A poor designer is one who loves everything. A good designer is one who has refined their taste," he says.

And there you have it. The key to the Membery brand. One thing is very clear - this is a man who definitely does not love everything, but he knows exactly what he does like. It's an ethos he honed in the world of fashion. The Stuart Membery label was launched in 1982 when the Perth-born designer decided to branch out under his own name after a successful stint in the US working for clothing label Esprit.

But Stuart has always had a passion for interiors. During his fashion days, the design of the retail spaces showcasing his label were just as important as the clothes themselves. A 1985 profile in *The Age* newspaper detailing his search for a marble-topped desk from Italy is just one small testament to his legendary eye for detail.

Today, Stuart - who splits his time between Sydney and Indonesia - is back at his desk in Bali after a quick trip to Perth. Shelves laden with design references fill the wall behind him as he tells me about working with talented craftspeople in Java on bespoke furniture for upcoming and in-progress projects.

The demand for Stuart's decisive style has taken him around the world. He can be in Bowral, in the NSW Southern Highlands, one week and in Bahrain the next, with a side trip to Harbour Island in The Bahamas thrown in. It's a busy life and he relies heavily on his much-loved team to make it all work. "We work in shorthand, which makes it all so much easier," says Stuart.

His latest project is Pineapple Hill, a villa north of Seminyak, in Bali. "I bought the property about nine years ago," he says. "At the time, it was just a shell. The finishes were poor, but it had incredibly good bones and I knew I could make it into something fantastic."

The existing pool running alongside the living area was an important part of this vision - "I loved that you could be sitting at the dining table and be talking to someone who's in the pool," he says - as was the neighbouring property's rice field, which gives visitors to Pineapple Hill a unique insight into local life.

When the project began, the house was going to be a residence for Stuart.

"When we started to renovate, it was going to be for me," he says. "But when Covid came, I returned to Australia to live. That's when we decided to make Pineapple Hill a vacation showcase for our furniture, textile and accessory collections so that holiday makers can immerse themselves in our world - particularly those with an eye for design." ►

STUART MEMBERY H&G

FACADE "I love stripes," confesses Stuart, pictured. He has used them boldly throughout his Balinese property, Pineapple Hill, starting with the entrance awning.





POOL AREA 'Patio' day bed and 'Cabana' umbrella, both Stuart Mambery Home. Curtains in a striped Sunbrella fabric.

The renovation was extensive. Walls were demolished to make each of the four bedrooms bigger and the original bathrooms were transformed into large indoor/outdoor ensuites with tropical gardens. Photographer Slim Aarons' images of Palm Springs in the 1950s and '60s, and theatre designer Oliver Messel's Palm Beach homes, were key influences. "I also drew inspiration from several of the resort homes I have designed over the years," he says.

In the garden, coconut palms were carefully selected for the curve of their trunks before being trucked in. Hot-pink bougainvilleas were chosen to add a splash of colour and looseness. Dark-green exterior plantation shutters perfectly offset the intensity of the pink of these lush tropical flowering vines.

The naming of the house was no accident. "We chose the name Pineapple Hill as pineapples signify welcome and hospitality," explains Stuart. "It comes from the Caribbean, when locals hung the fruit in front of their entrances to welcome visitors."

This National Institute of Dramatic Art graduate is expert in the art of creating an inviting home. He also has a refreshing take on the role designers play in our lives. "At the end of the day, we are in the entertainment business. That's what decorating is and that's what architecture and designing clothes is all about," Stuart explains, "creating atmosphere and entertainment." It seems those early student days learning the art of theatre have been the foundation for creating a home on which you would never wish to draw the final curtain. ▶

Stuart Membery Home: stuartmemberyhome.com.

Pineapple Hill: @pineapplehill_bali,
5starbalivilla.com.au/property/pineapple-hill.

"WHEN I BOUGHT THE PROPERTY, IT WAS JUST A SHELL.
BUT I KNEW I COULD MAKE IT INTO SOMETHING FANTASTIC."

Stuart Membery



LIVING Stuart's trademark design style is on display in the living area. 'Bungalow Lania' club chairs, 'Slipper' chairs in ivory canvas slip covers, 'Kingston' rattan sofa covered in an Oscar de la Renta fabric, 'Hampton' sofa table, 'Dynasty' étagère in Basil Green, 'Spice Islands' pillow collection (on sofa) in Parrot Green and 'Diamond' monogram cushion, all Stuart Membery Home.





POOL AREA At Pineapple Hill, activity is always focused around the pool. 'Patio' day beds, 'Cabana' umbrellas and cushions, all Stuart Membery Home. **ALFRESCO DINING** 'Pagoda' chairs in Basil Green bookend the 'Hampton' dining table while 'Laguna' dining chairs flank the length, all Stuart Membery Home. The pineapple finials on the curtain rods are a nod to the villa's name. Curtains in a bold striped Sunbrella fabric.

"I LOVED THAT YOU COULD BE SITTING AT THE DINING TABLE
AND BE TALKING TO SOMEONE WHO'S IN THE POOL."

Stuart Memberg





"I HOPE THAT OUR GUESTS LEAVE WITH FOND MEMORIES OF
HAPPY TIMES WITH LOTS OF LAUGHTER AND DELICIOUS FOOD."

Stuart Membery





KITCHEN The locally sourced tiles complement the early Dutch colonial ceramic plates on display, from Stuart Membery Home. **SITTING AREA** *Opposite, top* 'Calypso' dining chairs in Blade Green, 'Riviera' sofa with 'Spice Islands' pillow collection in Storm Blue and 'Mai-Tai' rattan occasional table with detachable tray, all Stuart Membery Home. **ENTERTAINING AREA** *Opposite, below* 'Moroccan' round dining table in White, planter with white stand on table and Elk wall trophy, all Stuart Membery Home.



MAIN BEDROOM The 'Pineapple Hill' four-poster bed was designed for the villa; 'Bungalow' ottoman, 'Indigo Coast' dresser, green batik pillow slips, 'Cape Colony' console, 'Chestnut Leaves' piano stool, 'Pineapple Hill' lamp with 'Chestnut Leaves' shade, 'Diamond Monogram' cushion, 'Plantation' club chair in Ralph Lauren fabric, 'Mandalay' console, 'Outrigger' drum table and antique ginger jars, all Stuart Membery Home. Ralph Lauren bed linen. Antique Javanese paintings (top right).

Small tropical art prints (far right), locally sourced in Indonesia. **BATHROOM** *Opposite, bottom right* There are four generous bathrooms in the villa, filled with pieces from Stuart's collections and continuing the indoor-outdoor design flow.





“WE CHOSE THE NAME PINEAPPLE HILL AS PINEAPPLES
SIGNIFY WELCOME AND HOSPITALITY.” *Stuart Membery*



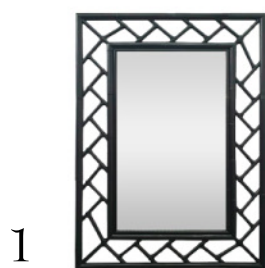
ENSUITE Balinese antique console in Basil Green with Balinese mirror in Blade Green, 'Jamaica' ottoman in Ralph Lauren fabric and raffia sconce lights with 'Breakwater Shell' shades, all Stuart Membery Home. **HALLWAY** Opposite 'Safari' butler's tray and mudcloth cushion, both Stuart Membery Home.



BATHROOM Pineapple Hill was designed with a seamless indoor-outdoor connection. This bathroom enjoys an open-air shower filled with sunlight and thriving greenery.

ISLAND LUXE

Give your home five-star resort treatment taking cues from Stuart's style.



BEDROOM 'Pineapple Hill' bed, 'Trade Winds' dresser and 'Santa Fe' table lamp, all Stuart Membery Home. 1 Chippendale rattan mirror in Black, \$949, Naturally Cane. 2 Heritage hand-painted large ginger jar in Blue, \$169.95, Myer. 3 'Roadster' hardcase four-wheel luggage in Racing Yellow, \$1120, Porsche Design. 4 'Colony' ottoman, \$1651, Stuart Membery Home. 5 Creed 'Sea Island' room spray (150ml), \$185, Myer. 6 'Chicken' cushion in Cadet Blue, \$83, Stuart Membery Home. 7 Ornamental ceramic pineapple in Green, POA, Xavier Furniture. 8 'Antigua' outdoor chair, POA, Xavier Furniture.

ALL TOGETHER

Stylist Imogen Naylor on creating an impeccably styled home for her young family on Sydney's Northern Beaches.

STORY Victoria Carey | PHOTOGRAPHY Prue Ruscoe

Around dining table is a must for Imogen Naylor. “Why?” I ask this talented stylist and designer as she drives home along a windy coastal road after a long day on location in Sydney’s Palm Beach for an advertising shoot. “Well, it makes everyone around the table feel like a king,” she says with a laugh.

It’s this sense of delight in her family and home that shines throughout our conversation, a chat that is peppered with childhood memories and tales of publishing and renovations.

Clearly, home is at the heart of everything Imogen does. Her career was launched with a role at leading interiors magazine *Belle* in 2005, where she eventually rose to the position of interior design editor. “It was a wonderful time and I learnt so much,” she says.

Today, she freelances for clients such as King Living and collaborates with husband Louis Molines, who launched boutique production agency Louis&Co in 2010. Together, the couple has three children who sit around that round dining table with them – Oscar, Gigi, and Axel.

When you look at the real-estate photographs of the textured red-brick bungalow the couple bought in November 2012, it’s hard to recognise today’s elegant, pale building. But, with elevated views over the suburb and a north-facing backyard, the three-bedroom house had one very important thing in its favour – position.

They were not the first owners to consider renovating, as they soon discovered from an architect living across the road, but the pair decided to live in the house for a couple of years before doing any building work.

Imogen’s advice to other renovators? “It’s best to completely gut the interior if you are reconfiguring the internal layout. Don’t keep one or two rooms as they will never really sit well with the new interiors,” she says.

Art is dotted throughout including photographic prints and several still-life works by Angus McDonald, an artist based at Lennox Head, NSW, a coastal town Imogen and Louis love to visit. These personal touches sit against a backdrop of calm, serene colours and natural finishes, which reign supreme. It’s an aesthetic that owes much to the influence of Belgian designer Axel Vervoordt. “I’ve always liked his work, particularly the mix of the old with the new,” explains Imogen.

There’s an element of this in Imogen’s home. The living room’s custom mantel replicates one from her childhood home.

“The proportions were perfect,” she explains of her decision to replicate it decades later for her own home. And it’s not the only design element Imogen has taken from the Wahroonga house. “A stunning timber staircase greeted you [at] the front door – I still use its hand-turned, carved handrail as a reference today.” ▶

Imogen and Louis with Axel, Gigi,
Oscar and Labrador Stevie Rose.





LIVING Imogen selected a custom colour for the herringbone timber floors from Tongue & Groove. *Pear*, a limited-edition artwork by Angus McDonald, hangs on the far wall. 'Daydream' sofa, Molmic. Armchairs, Max Sparrow. 'Remy' cushions, Francalia.

“A ROOM BECOMES TRULY YOURS WHEN IT REFLECTS
YOUR UNIQUE STORY AND PERSONALITY.”

Imogen Naylor



H&G IMOGEN NAYLOR

KITCHEN Joinery in Dulux Vivid White and a Dulux custom colour on the island, BK Kitchens. 'Madison' large pendant light, Dunlin. Moroccan Zellige tiles in Igloo, Surface Gallery. Carrara marble benchtop. Perrin & Rowe 'lo' bench-mounted mixer in Satin Brass, The English Tapware Company. 'Sake' bar stools, Lincoln Brooks.

DINING Imogen has teamed a 'Salon' round dining table from Canvas + Sasson with custom chairs, slip-covered in Mokum 'Eternal' linen. *The Rower* artwork by Jock Young. Chinoiserie urns, MCM House.



This creative eye has been inherited by the family's next generation. The kids love to give their rooms their personal stamp. "Styling is all about expressing who you are – whether it's through your clothes, your space, or your creativity. A room becomes truly yours when it reflects your unique story and personality," she says. "Being a stylist, I have far too many ideas and options!"

The home is perfect for entertaining and when it comes to the menu, expert help is close at hand. Imogen reveals that her father-in-law is renowned chef Robert Molines, the man behind hatted Hunter Valley restaurant Bistro Molines. "I honestly love everything on the menu at the restaurant, but if I had to choose, I'd pick all the entrees. I'd love a selection of them, especially Robert's charcuterie – his pâtés and terrines are amazing," she says.

Clearly, gathering around a table is key to this family's life and it is reflected in their home. One thing is certain, there will always be a round table in Imogen's dining room where everyone seated will feel like a king. ▶

Imogen Naylor: imogennaylor.com.

Artbuilt Constructions: artbuiltconstructions.com.au.







ENTRY Front door stained with Resene Woodsman in Pitch Black. Bell, Accoutrement. **DECK** Oscar and Axel with Stevie, the family's Labrador. **STAIRWELL** Imogen's classic style is reflected in the finishes, complemented by the couple's love of collecting art. Walls painted Dulux Natural White Quarter. Door stained Resene Pitch Black. *Sikinos Goodbye* artwork by Imogen's brother-in-law, Joseph Molines, who is based overseas; aptly, "It's a photo of island people jumping into the wake as a family member leaves the island; a way of saying goodbye." **LIVING** Walls painted Dulux Natural White Quarter. Cladding painted Dulux Monument. Candles, Queen B. 'Conran' nesting tables, La Maison. 'Daydream' sofa, Molmic. 'Remy' cushions, Francalia. Pots on fireplace, Island Luxe. Rug in Tuscan Quartz Sisal, International Floorcoverings. Flooring, Tongue & Groove. 'Sake' bar stools, Lincoln Brooks. **OUTDOORS** *Opposite* "Having a beautiful garden was very important to me," says Imogen, with daughter Gigi. The stylist worked with Formed Gardens on the landscape design. 'Architect' outdoor chair, Coco Republic. Ceramic stool, Orient House.



MAIN BEDROOM Horgans bedhead. 'Jean De Khaki/Natural' lamp, MCM House. 'Mayfair' bedside table, Canvas + Sasson. 'Viti' linen and 'Delhi' velvet cushions, Francalia. Bemboka quilt. 'Millie' bench, Pottery Barn. 'Samurai' carpet, Bremworth. *Opposite LIVING* Kookaburra Wings 2010 print by Gary Heery hangs on the stairwell wall, above two oil-on-linen *Untitled 2023* artworks by Emily Persson. Cushions, Francalia. Sofa, Molmic. La Maison coffee tables. **GIGI'S BEDROOM** "We have really encouraged the kids to decorate their rooms with things they love," says Imogen. Bed, Pottery Barn. Custom blinds in Raffles 'Amalfi' linen, Nuevue. **OSCAR'S BEDROOM** "Styling is all about expressing who you are — whether it's through your clothes, your space, or your creativity," Imogen says. **BATHROOM** Custom blind, Nuevue. Stool, Pepperwhites. Brodware tapware. Bianco Carrara porcelain tiles, Surface Gallery.







POOL AREA The King Living '1977' outdoor sofa and 'Luna' outdoor chairs take prime position by the pool by Artbuilt Constructions.

OUTDOOR DINING 'Bronte' table and 'Kotti' dining chairs, Eco Outdoor. French limestone pavers, Barefoot Living.

**"I LOVE OUR OUTDOOR LIVING SPACES SIMPLY BECAUSE
OF THE ENJOYMENT WE GET FROM THEM."**

Imogen Naylor

“STYLING IS ALL ABOUT EXPRESSING WHO YOU ARE, WHETHER IT’S THROUGH YOUR SPACE OR YOUR CREATIVITY.” *Imogen Naylor*

OUTDOOR LIVING The area under a timber pergola covered in ornamental grapevine is a nod to the vineyards of Louis’ country childhood, which gave him a great love of the outdoors. ‘Tucson 80’ fire pit in Rust, Milkcan. ‘Architect’ sofa and armchairs, Coco Republic. Log rack and bag, Kruk Garage. Stool, Orient House. French limestone pavers, Barefoot Living.

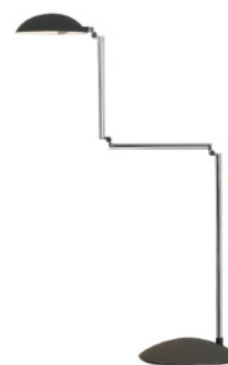
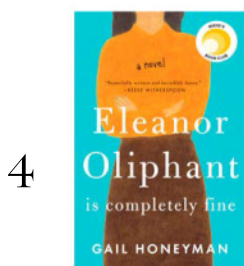


LAUNDRY 'River Nook' runner, Armadillo.
Two Apples by Angus McDonald hangs on the
far wall. 'Zonza' tea towel in Khaki, Francalia.



RELAXED ELEGANCE

Understated, timeless pieces create a look of laid-back luxury.



BEDROOM NOOK 'Fleur' tub chair, King Living. Box stand in Olive, Sagitine. Artwork by Susan Rothwell. 1 Medium 'Lotus' tote in Mud Suede, \$6900, Khaite. 2 Kevyn Aucoin The Volume mascara, \$53, Mecca. 3 Byredo Gypsy Water EDP (50ml), \$297, Mecca. 4 *Eleanor Oliphant is completely fine* novel by Gail Honeyman, \$36.50, Booktopia. 5 'Mercer St' outdoor triangular pendant light, \$1998, Dunlin. 6 Living Proof Perfect hair Day™ dry shampoo (198ml), \$46, Mecca. 7 'Tizza' linen cushion in Black (40x60cm), \$87.90, Francalia. 8 'Orbis' desk lamp, POA, ClassiCon.

INHERITED STYLE

It took stylist Isabella Walker-Smith just two weeks to turn a Sydney rental into a stylish home for a family of three.

STORY Victoria Carey | STYLING Isabella Walker-Smith & Sophie Wilson
PHOTOGRAPHY Abbie Mellé, Alana Landsberry & Fiona Susanto

When you grow up with a mother who writes stories called “These are the Worst Decorating Mistakes you can Make”, odds are that you are far less likely to make them yourself. Such is the case for Isabella Walker-Smith. Immersed in the world of design since she was a baby, this stylist and creative consultant knows exactly what she likes – and doesn’t like. “I was very lucky to grow up surrounded by beautiful things,” she says. “Mum [stylist and writer Melissa Penfold] has a great eye and was always discovering new places.”

It was while Isabella was living in a tiny flat in London, during a two-year stint overseas, that she began to source pieces for her curated collections for Lawsons Auctioneers. “I spent a lot of time on the Eurostar,” she says of her trips to France hunting for armoires and farmhouse tables like the one she is currently sitting at to fill shipping containers destined for Australia.

When she and her husband, Lindsay Hatton, returned home in September last year, they were shocked by the state of the rental market. “We had heard about the crisis but didn’t really acknowledge how bad it is until we saw it first-hand. At the first place we looked at, there was a line out the door and down the street and it was dank, dark and horrible,” says Isabella.

Luckily, the next property they saw was a significant improvement. Located on the ground floor of a 1920s block, the three-bedroom apartment had a sunny living

room with French windows looking onto a tree-lined street. “It was easy to understand why the previous tenant had lived there for 30 years,” says Isabella. “It was such a find. We instantly fell in love with it.” After signing the lease, the couple faced the realities of furnishing an apartment from scratch. “We were really starting from nothing – we didn’t even have a bed,” says Isabella. “I thought it would be overwhelming, but I ended up loving having a blank canvas to work from.”

Two weeks later, the flat was ready. Walls recently painted Dulux Whisper White were matched with three custom sisal rugs from Natural Floorcovering Centres and a three-seater sofa from La Maison. Then it was time to hit the auctions. One of her first finds was a Regency dining table once owned by late antiques dealer Martyn Cook – bought for just \$500 – and other bargains quickly followed. “This is the first home I have set up for my family and I wanted to curate a mix of old and new,” says Isabella. “I love discovering and repurposing vintage finds. I’m not a purist and don’t care specifically about provenance; I tend to buy pieces that speak to me.” The final flourishes? Tub chairs the colour of pale pink damask roses and a French stool with pale blue upholstery, which make harmonious bedfellows in an interior that is predominantly white, blue and green with just a hint of pink and yellow.

But origin does play its part to some extent, especially if the piece was gifted from her mother. “Mum gave ▶



LIVING Isabella and son Rupert on a La Maison 'Simonata' sofa. The artwork by Richard Zaloudek on the wall was a wedding gift from her grandparents. Floor lamp and side table from Isabella's collection at Lawsons. Vase, Holmon Home. Isabella wears a suit by Gabriela Hearst.



Portrait photograph by Fiona Susanto. Hair and make-up by Michelle Cox.

HALL Antique gilt mirror, vintage baskets, French oil painting by Lucien Troux, 1949, and concrete console, all from Isabella Walker-Smith's collections at Lawsons. Antique stool, Lawsons. Terracotta vessels, Olive Atelier. **DINING** *Opposite* Table found at auction. Vase, Holmon Home. Isabella, holding son Rupert, wears a suit by Gabriela Hearst.





me a pair of Chippendale chairs from the 1800s and some antique French chairs with original hessian seating that I just adore,” says Isabella. “Visitors always make a beeline for them, too.”

These days, family includes toddler Rupert. The nursery may have been the last room to be decorated, but it was a top priority for this first-time mum. “I want to raise my children surrounded by good design, just as I was,” says Isabella. “I didn’t want the nursery to look too babyish. No pink. No blue. And it had to be equal parts pretty and practical.” An antique French oak table with marble top is just one of the highlights in Rupert’s room. A family heirloom, it’s now being used by a fifth generation.

It’s on the cards that the flat could become a revolving door for her next Lawsons sale, but the vintage Thonet sofa in her bedroom is one piece this talented creative won’t be letting go of soon.

“It still has its original rattan seating and is very fragile. I don’t let anyone sit on it, something Lindsay can’t quite understand,” she says, laughing.

I ask what’s the most important design lesson she has learnt from her mother? “Use the good stuff every day” and to not, under any circumstances, keep it locked away for special occasions. It’s a mantra she has definitely taken to heart.

Lawsons: lawsons.com.au.

LIVING *This page and opposite, top left* ‘Simonata’ sofa, La Maison. Antique Italian two-tier jardiniere stand, bought at auction. Artwork by Richard Zaloudek. Floor lamp, Lawsons.

DINING *Opposite, top right* Antique Louis XV fauteuil armchair, bottles, planter and plinth, vintage artwork, all Isabella Walker-Smith’s collections at Lawsons.

Opposite, bottom right Vintage pots and baskets. Tub chairs, MCM House. French provincial dining table and jade ewer from Isabella’s collection at Lawsons.

Bottom left ‘Aiden’ highchair, Mocka.





“I DIDN’T WANT THE NURSERY TO LOOK TOO BABYISH. NO PINK. NO BLUE. AND IT HAD TO BE EQUAL PARTS PRETTY AND PRACTICAL.”

Isabella Walker-Smith

NURSERY ‘Sonata’ change table in Bronze, hanging storage baskets, ‘Claremont’ drawers, ‘Josephine’ cot in Bronze, and ‘Romi’ rug in Cream, all Mocka. The antique French oak table with marble top once belonged to Isabella’s great-grandmother. Artwork by Emma Bahama (right), and baby (left) from late New York designer Nina Griscom’s private collection.



NURSERY The rattan chair was a gift from Isabella's mum, Melissa Penfold. Hot air balloon wall decals, Ginger Monkey. 'Josephine' cot in Bronze with canopy in Oatmeal, 'Claremont' drawers, change table, throw and rug, all Mocka. Custom roman blind, No Chintz. Floor lamp, from Isabella's collection at Lawsons. Antique French oak table. Stools, Olive Ateliers.





“I LOVE DISCOVERING VINTAGE FINDS. I TEND
TO BUY PIECES THAT SPEAK TO ME.” *Isabella Walker-Smith*

BEDROOM Ivory boucle bedhead, brass lamp with linen shade and shagreen-style side table, all from Isabella's collection at Lawsons. Ikat coffee and cream cushions, Creel and Gow. French bed linen, Carlotta + Gee.



REFINED GLAMOUR

Surround yourself with these beautiful pieces chosen by Isabella.



DINING A corner of Isabella's dining room features pieces from her collection at Lawsons. 1 *Natural Living by Design* book by Melissa Penfold, \$78, Vendome Press. 2 'Cosima' gold collar, \$860, Dorsey. 3 Santa Maria Novella 'Melograno' scented terracotta, \$112, Libertine Parfumerie. 4 'The Sofia' cushion in Chalk linen with Fennel fringe, \$265, Fred Home. 5 'Exuma' hat, \$115, Monday Swimwear. 6 'Andiamo' bag in Fondant, \$7660, Bottega Veneta. 7 'Always' pan in Steam, \$275, Our Place. 8 'Fazzo' table lamp, \$7561, Sophie Lou Jacobsen.

TREASURE TROVE

Unique vintage finds and an extensive art collection make the Highlands getaway of charity chief executive and former magazine publisher Deborah Thomas a cherished one.

STORY Kirstie Clements | STYLING Olga Lewis | PHOTOGRAPHY Prue Ruscoe

When Deborah Thomas, chief executive/managing director of Camp Quality, and former editor of *The Australian Women's Weekly* and her husband, Vitek Czernuszyn, decided to buy a home in NSW's Southern Highlands, the primary motivation was not an escape into solitude. "I liked the house because it was purposefully built as a bed and breakfast," Deborah says of the extensive four-bedroom home, Stonnington, which also has a separate two-bedroom cottage on the same property. "I love entertaining and having friends and family to stay, so having six bedrooms, each with their own bathroom was just perfect!"

The exterior of the house speaks to the Highlands style, with its Provençal chic yellow exterior and pale green shutters, but the interior is surprisingly modern eclectic, a reflection of the couple's love of art, and in particular, art glass. "I like to collect unusual handmade objects; I started collecting in my early twenties," says Deborah. "If you need a bowl, why not get a beautiful one that was made by an artist?" she asks, pointing out a blue glass bowl by Peter Crisp. "It's much more special to utilise something hand-hewn in everyday life as opposed to buying something new and 'perfect'."

The house sprawls over many levels, indoors and out, including a split-level dining-living, a downstairs reading/media room, eat-in kitchen, and two terraces perfect for alfresco dining. Art is displayed on every viable surface,

with an emphasis on prominent Australian artists, many of whom are personal friends, such as photographer Bill Henson and artists Louise Hearman, Janet Laurence and Adrienne Gaha. "I love that for the first time in my life I can actually have pretty much everything I own out on display," says Deborah. "Because I've lived in so many apartments, most of our things were always in storage."

Deborah points out that the decor is an accumulation of treasured pieces amassed over time. "Nearly everything in this house is secondhand. It might be a porcelain cup I inherited from my mother, a Mid-century antique, like the Swedish sideboard, or something that was bought on eBay that I've had restored. Even the carpets were bought at auction. I like that most of it is preloved." Deborah's design aesthetic goes by the theory that if a piece is specially chosen, it can be put together with another specially chosen item, even though they may be from contrasting eras. "You could say that they fight, but for me, they just all go together because they're part of my life. Because I think that each piece is, in its own way, beautiful."

Vitek runs a vintage art glass business, Heart of Glass Berrima (located online and at Dirty Janes Bowral), and as a trader, he is constantly scouring the auction sites, so there is an array of savvy vintage finds throughout the house, including many of his best glass pieces that didn't quite make their way to his store. "Things are either picked up at markets or we will find a piece during an ►



FACADE "I love this house – it was built by an artist... he installed French windows from an antique store," says Deborah, pictured. Walls painted Dulux Golden Glow. Chair, Raffan Kelaher & Thomas.



overseas trip. I like things that are handmade," says Deborah. "And I will often buy an artwork at a friend's exhibition. I love it when something is made by someone I know. I could most definitely do a home tour and tell you of each of the artworks the story that was behind them!"

Deborah says she had no real intention of buying a secondary home in the Southern Highlands, but when she went to inspect an old stone cottage on a whim, she discovered Stonnington was for sale in the same street. "The reason I love this house is because it was built by an artist. It's not perfect, everything is a bit askew. It's a new and very solid build but, for example, he installed old French windows from an antique store. A feeling of the past has been incorporated into the house, in the doors and the floors. It feels like an artist or a human has made it as opposed to some sort of slick construction."

Deborah was ready to entertain the moment she had unpacked her own cherished pieces sent down from Sydney. "I love having all this space to have friends stay," she says. On weekends the house is full, with guests served a pre-dinner drink by the fireplace and dining either on the outdoor terrace under the wisteria, at the formal dining table or in the cosy kitchen. Deborah has a newfound appreciation of gardening and the beauty of the ever-changing seasons. "There's a wonderful mix of people in the Highlands and lots of artists," she says, happily. If only she had more wall space. ▶

Camp Quality: campquality.org.au.

Heart of Glass Berrima: heartofglassberrima.com.

EXTERIOR Autumn is possibly the most beautiful time in the Southern Highlands, NSW, as the trees unveil a palette of rich gold, red and rust in contrast to the pines and other evergreens. Behind the fence is a traditional Japanese garden, home to mature mini maple trees and a cascading water feature and pond.



DINING The small artwork, top left, was a gift from the artist, Janet Laurence, to Vitek for his 70th birthday. Artworks, clockwise from top right: an early work by Gareth Sansom; a 1960s artwork by Leonard French; Anne Hall portrait. Robyn Cosgrove rug, Lawsons. A vase from Heart of Glass Berrima at Dirty Janes Bowral is filled with maple tree cuttings. *Opposite* **LIVING** Circa 1800s ancestral portraits bought in Hong Kong. **EXTERIOR** Vitek and Deborah at home with Scruffles, the Maltese Shih Tzu. **KITCHEN** Walls painted Dulux Lamb's Ears Half. Artwork by Georgina Beier. Chairs, Thonet. The French table was a gift. *Below, left* Black and white vase by friend Rosemijn Metzner. Paintings on mantel by Tony Clark and Ken Johnson.



“NEARLY EVERYTHING IN
THIS HOUSE IS SECONDHAND.
IT MIGHT BE A PORCELAIN CUP
I INHERITED FROM MY MOTHER
OR A MID-CENTURY ANTIQUE
SWEDISH SIDEBOARD.”

Deborah Thomas



DEBORAH THOMAS H&G





LIVING Minotti 'Seymour' sofa, Home Furniture on Consignment. Cushions, Suzie Anderson Home. Robyn Cosgrove rug, Lawsons. *Above, left* Royal Beauty artwork by Dan Pearce, Clarendon Fine Art. Mid-century G-Plan desk. 'Raggiera' chair, Fornasetti. Vintage lamp. **DINING** Vintage dining table circa 1950 by Paul Kafka. Victorian chairs and Spanish lamp from Deborah's sister. Artwork above lamp by Daniel Boyd. 1970s phantom painted shield from New Guinea. Umbrella photograph by Andrew Bell. Antique Indonesian puppets. **BALCONY** The white vintage Wedgwood vase was a gift from Deborah's friend, Pussy, an antique collector in Melbourne. 1970s glass vase. Blue jug by Colin Heaney. Tablecloth, Koustrup & Co.





BEDROOM Walls painted Dulux Vanilla Ice Quarter. Artwork by Sonia Cugini. Bedhead, Hill Furnishings. Victorian-style lamp, Heart of Glass Berrima at Dirty Janes Bowral. Handmade Amish quilt bought from an Amish farm in Pennsylvania.



**"I LOVE HAVING ALL THIS SPACE TO HAVE
FRIENDS STAY."** *Deborah Thomas*



H&G DEBORAH THOMAS

BATHROOM Adjoining the main bedroom, the bathroom is equipped with a Japanese bath and flows through to a Tuscan-inspired courtyard.



HOME WITH HEART

Emulate Deborah's style with effortless elegance and vintage pieces.



VANITY FAIR This bathroom continues Deborah's interior style with vintage details. **1** *Wifedom: Mrs Orwell's Invisible Life* book by Anna Funder, \$36.99, David Jones. **2** Diamond entwined rope double **pearl ring**, \$19,800, Paspaley. **3** Fratelli Levaggi 'Campanino' **vintage chair**, \$2450, Cleo Collects. **4** Toyota Prius Hybrid **car**. **5** Studio VC 'Classic' swing-arm **wall lamp**, \$790, The Montauk Lighting Co. **6** Issey Miyake L'Eau D'Issey EDT **perfume** (50ml), from \$143, Myer. **7** 'Cross' cotton **cushion cover** in Yellow Olive, \$69, Suzie Anderson Home. **8** 'Missoni' **vase**, \$680, Heart of Glass Berrima.

COLOUR WAYS

With more than 30 years in the design industry, textiles and decorating icon Chrissie Jeffery knows how to harness the power of colour.

STORY *Victoria Carey* | STYLING *Marissa Foye* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Kristina Šoljo*

One thing is certain, Chrissie Jeffery is never boring, in person or in her work. We are sitting in the “good room” of her Potts Point apartment, but as far as I’m concerned, it’s a title deserved by every room in this inner-city home.

When I mention that I’m working on a story about the Sydney decorator behind the No Chintz textiles and interior decorating business, I’m met with a shower of comments. Phrases such as “she has such a beautiful eye” and “colour genius” punctuate the conversation – and all of these accolades are well deserved.

Chrissie’s legendary sense of colour is evident around me as I follow her through the apartment, but let’s return to that “good room”. It’s a tranquil space with walls painted a green reminiscent of eucalyptus leaves, a shade that turns out to be a perfect foil to two works by Sydney artist Clare Milledge, just some of the art Chrissie has amassed over the years. (“I could spend every day in an art gallery,” she confides. “It’s my favourite thing to do outside the home.”)

This love of art was firmly cemented when she was a fashion student at East Sydney Tech and spent her days wandering around the Art Gallery of NSW. Today, she is on the gallery’s Contemporary Collection Benefactors committee, tasked with raising funds for acquisitions.

In the gentle light of the dining room hangs the 2001 work *groundspeed (Red Piazza) #4*, one of the most significant pieces by the late Australian photo artist

Rosemary Laing, while Caroline Rothwell’s aluminium leaf and PVC sculpture *Composition 4* hangs on the opposite wall above the mantelpiece. “It’s one of my favourite pieces,” says Chrissie.

Built in 1912, Chrissie’s heritage-listed apartment was bought a year later by the Albert family, famous in the Australian music industry for launching acts such as AC/DC. The Alberts kept the apartment until the late 1980s and it had very few owners after that, so Chrissie and her optometrist husband, Richard Banks, inherited the original layout when they bought it in 2010.

The pair were living at the time in a 1930s top-floor flat near Double Bay’s Murray Rose Pool with an interior that had appeared not just once but twice on a *Vogue Living* cover, six years apart. It was a wrench to leave their home of more than a decade but the lofty ceilings and extra rooms of Potts Point were a powerful lure.

“Some very good friends of ours lived here so Richard and I would come over for dinner. We knew their apartment well and loved it,” she says. “Then we heard that there was an apartment coming up in this building.”

Contracts were quickly exchanged and the couple decided to paint the apartment white for the rental market. Then the Double Bay apartment sold unexpectedly and all of a sudden Sydney’s queen of colour found herself in an all-white apartment surrounded by boxes on Christmas Eve. “I had never ►

"I love to spend Sundays in the 'good room' (as my husband, Richard, calls it), listening to music while reading and chatting to him," says No Chintz founder Chrissie Jeffery. *Banumbirr (Morning Star pole)* by Henry Gambika Nupurra. *Diptych* by Clare Milledge above the No Chintz linen sofa. Bronze work by Anne Wienholt on a Knoll coffee table. Ceramics by Erez Ben-Or. Armchairs, Copeland & De Soos. Rug, Robyn Cosgrove.



THE GOOD ROOM An Antique Gujarati beaded cushion sits alongside custom cushions in No Chintz fabric. Armchairs, Copeland & De Soos. Knoll coffee table. Bronze by Anne Wienholt. Ceramics by Erez Ben-Or. Rug, Robyn Cosgrove. **DINING** Walls painted Peter Lewis Paints Devon Granite. Curtains in 'On the Horizon' ikat, No Chintz. 1930s Murano chandelier. Knoll 'Saarinen Conference' chairs, De De Ce. Vintage Eames table. A Caroline Rothwell aluminium leaf artwork hangs above the fireplace. Box work by Anie Nheu. Hanging work by Hossein Ghaemi. Small artwork by Kirrily Humphries. Glass sculpture by Consuelo Cavaniglia. Rug, Perryman Carpets.



lived in a space like that before and it took me a year to get it painted in the colours I wanted,” says Chrissie.

But despite the stark backdrop, she immediately felt at home. “Some of my earliest memories as a child from the country are coming to stay in Potts Point for Easter. I’ve always had great memories of this area,” says Chrissie, who grew up in Bellingen in mid-north coastal NSW. “You see people you know all the time, it’s the friendliest little suburb in Sydney.” Strong community spirit is also what attracted the couple to the building. “Everyone’s very friendly and kind. You could knock on a door in the middle of the night here and someone would help.”

Renovation was always the plan but not something they wanted to rush into, so it was to be 14 years before they made a start. Luckily, Jeffrey Temple, their much-loved architect, was close by. “Jeff also lives in the building, which helps!” says Chrissie. “He did a brilliant job of renovating his apartment and transformed it into the most amazing light-filled space. He is a master of space, along with his work partner, Sky Grove.”

Sometimes Chrissie’s colour inspiration comes from the most unlikely sources. Take the pink in her bedroom, a shade that is a wonderful foil to her collection of Neridah Stockley paintings.

“When I was a child I just loved the colour of calamine lotion. So I’ve been carrying that pink with me all my life. I’m a bit obsessed with it,” she says. “There was even a Derwent pencil that looked exactly like it.”

It was Chrissie’s childhood pencil collection that sparked her love of colour.

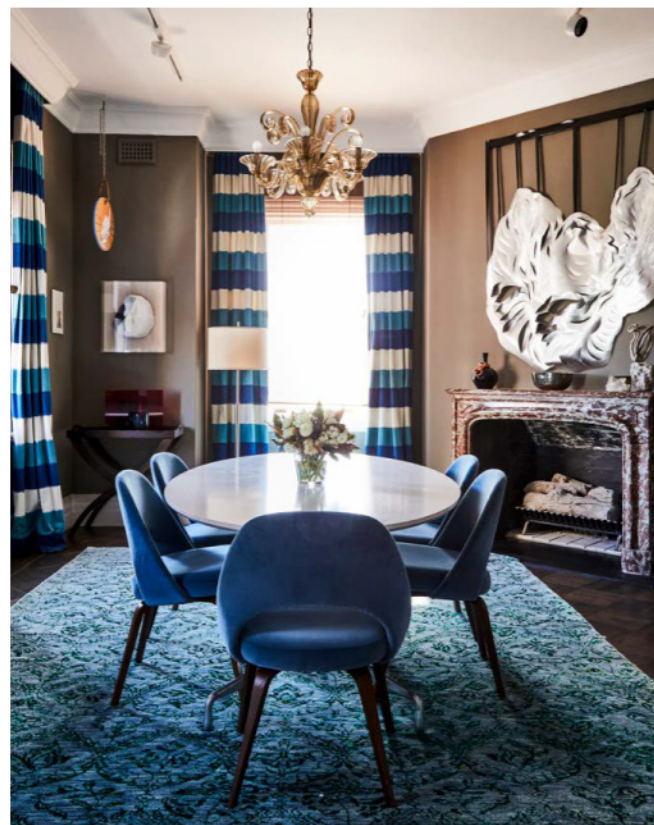
“Derwent pencils were the things that made me realise there were so many more colours in the world. I couldn’t bear any of my siblings to touch them and I couldn’t even use them myself, even though I wanted to. It was my first colour obsession,” she confesses.

I ask what she thinks is the secret to colour. “You must check the colour in the room that you’re using it in. You need to see it in that light because if you don’t, you can get some very nasty surprises,” she advises. “Sometimes a yellow can go green while some greens go yellow. You need to consider where the light coming into the room is from. Is it south, east or west? And what’s outside? The reflection from a red brick wall, for example, will impact the colour.”

Peter Lewis, who specialises in natural paints, is her much-trusted adviser. “Once I took him a straw hat and said, ‘I want this golden, taupey colour’ and he mixed it up for me. And yes, he did get it right the first time.”

I ask Chrissie as we sit drinking coffee in the good room, if she could tell me what part of the apartment she loves the most? “No, my favourite is always the room I’m in at the moment,” she says. After spending a few hours in her beautiful home, I understand why. ►

Chrissie Jeffery: nochintz.com.



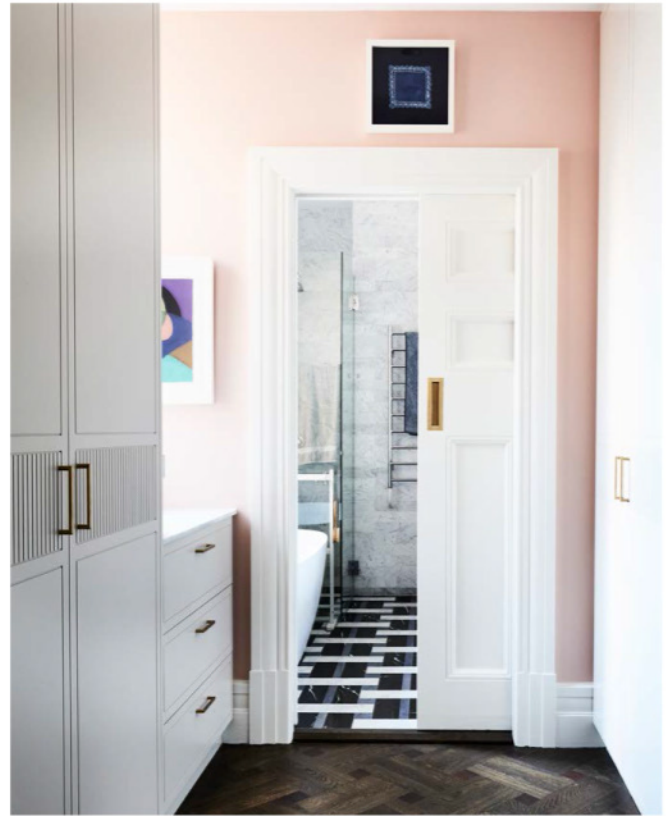


KITCHEN Chrissie loves to cook: “I find it very relaxing,” she says. Peter Lewis Paints custom wall paint. A curved cut-out in the Fusion Wow quartzite benchtop from Euro Marble creates a much-used seating area, the perfect place for breakfast. Joinery painted Dulux Palmerin and kitchen island in dark stained oak, both DSK Kitchens & Furniture. Custom pendant light, Opal Lighting. An installation by Meagan Streader stands alone on a wall near the walk-in pantry. Floors, EuroStyle Floors.

"YOU MUST CHECK THE
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LIGHT AND CONSIDER
WHERE THE LIGHT IS
COMING FROM."

Chrissie Jeffery





Clockwise from top left **HALLWAY** The hallway is lined with some of Chrissie and Richard's art collection. Artworks by Maria Josette Orsto, John Beard, Margaret Kerinauia, Timothy Cook and Gabrielle Courtenay. Rug, Tibet Sydney. **DRESSING ROOM** An artwork by Nairn Scott hangs above the door. Artwork on the left by Julian Martin. **BEDROOM** A 1930s starburst mirror makes a dramatic statement. **VERANDAH** Upholstery in Anna Spiro 'Avonlea' outdoor stripe fabric in Lawton, No Chintz. **THE SNUG** *Opposite* Walls painted Peter Lewis Paints custom colour Study Blue. "It's a colour I saw in a museum in Germany, which I'm crazy about," says Chrissie. Blind in Zoffany 'Water Iris' cotton. Art by John Beard above a sofa in 'Ruff' woven cotton in Coral, and ottoman in Anna Spiro 'Tattie' tartan linen, both No Chintz. Cushions in Borderline 'Veronese' and Hazelton House fabrics. Artwork above table by Frederick Hammersley.

“WHEN I WAS A CHILD I JUST
LOVED THE COLOUR OF
CALAMINE LOTION. I’VE
BEEN CARRYING THAT PINK
WITH ME ALL MY LIFE.”

Chrissie Jeffery



BEDROOM The main bedroom walls are painted Peter Lewis Paints custom colour Calamine. “Peter has made this shade of pink for me in different strengths for years,” says Chrissie. A work by Jake Walker hangs next to the bed. *Opposite* A collection of works by Neridah Stockley, Clara Adolfs and Frank Nowlan are grouped across the wall and above the fireplace painted a Peter Lewis Paints custom jade. Painting by David Jolly above an armchair covered in ‘Cabana Stripe’ cotton, No Chintz.





“SOMETIMES A YELLOW CAN GO GREEN WHILE SOME GREENS GO YELLOW. YOU NEED TO CONSIDER WHERE THE LIGHT COMING INTO THE ROOM IS FROM.”

Chrissie Jeffery

GUEST BEDROOM *Above* The former kitchen became the guest room in the reconfiguration of the floorplan. The bedhead was designed to sit in the recess where the original stove once was. Walls in ‘Ocelot’ wallpaper, bedhead upholstered in ‘Cameroon’ stripe cotton in Petrol, and ‘Verbena’ quilt, all No Chintz.

ENSUITE *Left* Armchair upholstered in ‘Absurd’ stripe cotton in Jade, No Chintz. Issy vanity, Reece. **POWDER ROOM** *Opposite* In this room, the walls are covered with Arte ‘Tatami’ wallcovering in Green Almond, above marble tiles that complement the jewel-toned vanity painted Dulux Murdoch. Artwork by John Moore.

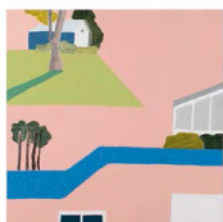


LAUNDRY The laundry leads onto the building's back stairs and continues the colourful scheme of the apartment with joinery painted Resene Rusty Nail.

PATTERN MAKER

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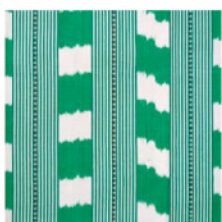
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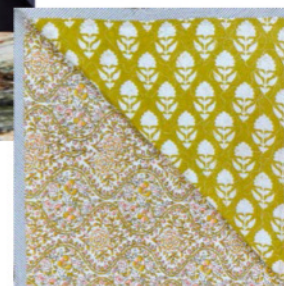
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KITCHEN Joinery in Dulux Palmerin, DSK Kitchens & Furniture. Handmade zellige splashback tiles, TeraNova. **1** *Blue Blend* artwork by Neridah Stockley, \$3600, Bett Gallery. **2** Trudon 'La Cloche' **glass bell jar** with stand, \$199, and 'Abd El Kader' **candle**, \$159, both Libertine Parfumerie. **3** 'Absurd Stripe' **cotton fabric** in Jade, \$110/m, No Chintz. **4** Knoll 'Saarinen' **chair**, POA, De De Ce. **5** Dior Diorissimo Eau de Toilette **perfume** (50ml), \$170, Myer. **6** Issy 'ZI Ballerina' **vanity unit**, POA, Reece. **7** *0020 House and Landscape* artwork by Jake Walker, POA, Station. **8** 'Verbena' **quilt**, \$695/large, No Chintz.



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